
**PARLIAMENTARY COMMISSIONER FOR THE
ENVIRONMENT 20 FORUM, WELLINGTON, 1 – 2
MARCH 2007**

1. Purpose of Report

To provide information on and to seek approval for one elected member to attend the 'Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment 20 Forum' to be held in Wellington, 1 - 2 March 2007.

2. Recommendations

It is recommended that the Committee:

- 1. Receive the information.*
- 2. Approve the attendance of one elected member at the 'Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment 20 Forum' to be held in Wellington 1 – 2 March and agree that the costs associated with attending the meeting are met from the Elected Members Budget (GVEM01).*
- 3. Note that there is a Strategy and Policy Committee meeting on 1 March and an Audit Risk Management Subcommittee meeting on 2 March 2007.*
- 4. Note that a report back on the meeting will be presented to the Strategy and Policy Committee in accordance with Council policy.*

3. Discussion

The Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment (PCE) was established in 1987 at the same time as the Department of Conservation and the Ministry for the Environment. At that time, it was the first independent environmental supervisory body in the world. 2007 marks the organisation's 20th anniversary and provides an opportunity to look back on the past 20 years and forward to the next 20 years.

The forum aims to generate discussion through panels of five or six world class international and national experts and speakers on environmental sustainability. Discussions will be facilitated by experienced broadcasters Chris Laidlaw, Kim Hill and Linda Clark.

International guest speakers are:

- Dr Gunther Bachmann – Director, German Council for Sustainable Development
- Greg Bourne – CEO WWF Australia
- Johanne Gelinás – Commissioner for the Environment and Sustainable Development, Canada
- Professor Tim Jackson – Centre for Environmental Strategy, School of Engineering, University of Surrey, UK
- Dr Ian McPhail – Commission for Environmental Sustainability in Victoria, Australia
- Gord Miller – Environmental Commissioner of Ontario, Canada
- Dr Ingeborg Niestroy – Secretary General, European Environment and Sustainable Development Advisory Councils (EEAC)
- Professor Tim O’Riordan – Professor of Environmental Sciences, University of East Anglia, Norwich, UK
- Dr Rosemary Purdie – Commissioner for the Environment, ACT, Australia
- L. G. (Bart) Wesselink – Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency (MNP)

New Zealand guest speakers include:

- Hon Margaret Wilson – Speaker of the House of Representatives
- Dr J Morgan Williams – Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment
- Dr Helen Anderson – CEO, Ministry of Research, Science and Technology
- Hon David Benson-Pope – Minister for the Environment, Minister of Social Development
- Prof Ralph Chapman – Director, Environmental Studies, Victoria University
- Prof Paul Callaghan – MacDiarmid Institute of Advanced Materials Science and Technology, Victoria University
- Jeanette Fitzsimons – MP, Co-Leader Green Party
- Sir Geoffrey Palmer – President NZ Law Commission; former Prime Minister; former Minister for the Environment
- Dr Rick Pridmore – CEO, National Institute of Water and Atmosphere Research
- Hon Jim Sutton – Chairperson, Landcorp; former Minister of Overseas Trade; former Minister of Agriculture

Sustainability has become enmeshed in law through legislation such as the Resource Management Act 1991 and the Local Government Act 2002. The forum intends to consider barriers and potential key drivers of managing New Zealand's natural resources. Each panel will have 90 – 100 minutes to explore the various topics with a mix of international and national panellists.

The programme on Thursday 1 March will consider:

The journey so far: This will explore sustainable development milestones and PCE's contribution over the past 20 years.

Where is New Zealand at? Three parallel sessions to review where New Zealand is at in sustainability terms. This will consider the health of key environmental factors and New Zealand's response including:

- The state of the environment
- Central and local government response
- Business responses

What have we heard? A northern hemisphere view: A plenary of international perspectives from the day's discussions and reflecting on New Zealand's quest for sustainability.

The programme on Friday 2 March will consider:

What is happening elsewhere in the world? Two parallel sessions exploring the role of dedicated institutions including:

- Institutions that make a difference
- Sustainable development initiatives

Platforms of power: Two parallel sessions to explore social and cultural, economic and wealth creation aspirations and the effect of these on New Zealand's natural assets:

- Sustainability and our social and cultural aspirations
- Sustainability and our economic future in a globalising world

Building blocks for progress: Looking ahead to explore education, knowledge and communication needs:

- Education for sustainability
- Knowledge for sustainability
- Communicating sustainability: telling the story

Building consensus for action: Identifying a consensus for action from the two days of debate and discussion.

It is the intention of management to have officer representation at the forum.

The programme for the forum is attached at appendix one.

3.1 Considerations

When deciding which elected member should attend this forum, consideration should be given to:

- the cost; and
- the impact of attendance on the budget; and
- the other conferences elected members may wish to attend later in the financial year.

The total cost if one elected member is appointed is expected to be \$450.00 and will be met from the conference budget.

The cost of attendance per person is broken down as follows:

Item	Cost
Registration	\$450.00
Total	\$450.00

The impact on the budget of one elected member attending this conference is outlined below:

	2006/2007 Budget	Year to Date Expenditure	Unexpended Funds
Total budget for conference fees	\$34,000.00	\$15,499.75 ¹	\$18,500.25
Impact of sending one elected member to the conference	\$450.00	\$15,949.75	\$18,050.25

¹ The attendance of 5 Elected Members at the LGNZ Conference at a cost of \$5000.00.
 The attendance of 1 Elected Member at the TRAFINZ Conference at a cost of \$2310.00
 The attendance of 2 Elected Members at the Safer Communities Conference at a cost of \$400
 The attendance of 1 Elected Member at the Digital Earth 06 Conference at a cost of \$1800
 The attendance of 1 Elected Member at the Youth and Local Government Conference in New Plymouth at a cost of \$776
 The attendance of 1 Elected Member at the LIANZA Conference in Wellington at a cost of \$500
 The attendance of 1 Elected Member at the NZ Walking Conference 2006 in Christchurch at a cost of \$865
 The attendance of 2 Elected Members at Climate Change: The Policy Challenges Symposium in Wellington at a cost of \$350
 The attendance of 1 Elected Member at the New Zealand Recreation Association Conference in Auckland at a cost of \$748.75
 The attendance of the Mayor and 1 Elected Member at the Commonwealth Local Government Conference in Auckland at a cost of \$2,450.00
 The attendance of 2 Elected Members at the Improving Utilities Access to Road, Motorway and Rail Corridors – The New Context Forum in Wellington at a cost of \$300.

4. Conclusion

A decision is required as to whether Council should approve the attendance of one elected member at the 'Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment 20 Forum' to be held in Wellington, 1 - 2 March 2007.

Contact Officer: *Nicola Hay, Committee Advisor*

Supporting Information
1) Strategic Fit / Strategic Outcome <i>This project supports Outcome 7.2.B – More actively engaged: Wellington will operate an open and honest decision making process that generates confidence and trust in the Democratic system</i>
2) LTCCP/Annual Plan reference and long term financial impact <i>Relates to C534: Elections, Governance and Democratic Process</i>
3) Treaty of Waitangi considerations <i>There are no Treaty of Waitangi implications</i>
4) Decision-Making <i>This is not a significant decision</i>
5) Consultation a) General Consultation <i>Not required</i> b) Consultation with Maori <i>Not required</i>
6) Legal Implications <i>Nil</i>
7) Consistency with existing policy <i>This report is consistent with existing Wellington City Council policy</i>

Appendix One